

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the rejection of independent claim 19 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as anticipated by U.S. patent no. 4,608,542 ("Siegel") is respectfully requested, in light of amendments being made to claim 19 and these Remarks.

It is respectfully submitted that at least the feedback stage recited in claim 19 is not described or suggested by the Siegel patent. The Office Action points to the feedback circuit 8 of Figure 1 of Siegel, which includes an amplifier, that is alleged to meet the terms of the claimed feedback stage. But this is believed incorrect for at least two reasons.

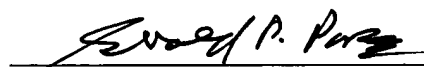
First, the amplifier of Siegel referenced in the Office Action is not in the signal feedback path as claimed. The signal feedback is provided through a variable resistance device 24 (84) from the output 26 of the amplifier 30 to its input 20. Although the amplifier in the feedback circuit 8 does receive an input from the output 26, this amplifier appears to merely control the resistance of the device 24(84). This amplifier does not have its output connected to the input node as claimed. The output of the amplifier in the feedback circuit 8 merely controls the resistance of the actual signal feedback path, which is through the device 24(84).

Second, the amplifier in the circuit 8 of Siegel cannot feed back to the input node 20 a linear sample of the output signal at the output node 26, as is now claimed. The input to this amplifier includes a rectifier with a diode 68 and a filtering circuit of several resistors and capacitors. What is received by this amplifier is a d.c. voltage related to the magnitude of the output signal but is not a form of the output signal itself. The amplifier output applied to the variable resistance feedback device 24(84) is thus also a d.c. signal, which will vary slowly over time because of the heavy filtering of its input rectifier. Because of this, the amplifier in the feedback 8 cannot provide at the input 20 any part of the output signal from the node 26.

Further, Siegel's amplifier output is also isolated from the input node 20 by the feedback device 24(84) that it controls.

Accordingly, it is submitted that claim 19 is novel and allowable over the disclosure of the cited Siegel patent. Dependent claims 20 – 22 are submitted to be allowable for the same reasons. Therefore, an early indication of the allowance of the present application is solicited. However, if the Examiner has any further matters that need to be resolved, a telephone call to the undersigned attorney at 415-318-1163 would be appreciated.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date

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